

In the claims:

Kindly cancel claims 6-13, 29-38, 47-52, and 55-77 without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter thereto.

Kindly rewrite the claims as follows:

1. (Amended) A microscope adapted for viewing an object positioned on a microscope slide, wherein the microscope slide is positioned within a structure, the microscope comprising:

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- (a) one and only one lens having ^{an} optical axis;
 - (b) a structure adapted to support the lens; the structure comprising
 - (i) a device adapted to position the microscope slide a specific distance from the lens; and
 - (ii) a device adapted to move and position the microscope slide in a plane perpendicular to the optical axis of the lens,

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wherein the structure has substantially no openings between a viewer's eye and the microscope slide and at least partially encloses the microscope slide and the object being viewed when the microscope is in use in order to minimize the possibility of injury to the viewer's eye.

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14. (Amended) The microscope of claim 1, wherein the device adapted to move and position the microscope slide in a plane perpendicular to the optical axis of the lens comprises an object positioning device and a locking apparatus adapted to lock and hold the device in position relative to the structure.

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17. (Amended) The microscope of claim 14, wherein the locking apparatus comprises

(i) a cam structure; and

(ii) a clamp,

wherein tightening of the cam structure causes the clamp to secure the object positioning device.

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24. (Amended) The microscope of claim 23, wherein the light source comprises a source selected from the group consisting of sunlight, firelight, incandescent light, fluorescent light, electrically activated phosphors, photographic flash, solid-state light production devices, LEDs, transmitted light, and reflected light.

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39. (Amended) The microscope of claim 1, wherein the lens is selected from the group consisting of a ball lens, a glass ball lens, a double convex lens, a meniscus lens, an aspheric lens, a kino-form-corrected aspheric double convex lens, a kino-form-corrected aspheric meniscus, a flat-field apochromatic single-element simple microscope lens, a plano/spheric convex lens, a plano/aspheric convex lens, a plano/diffractive lens, a plano/diffractive-spheric convex lens, a plano/diffractive-aspheric convex lens, a diffractive plano/spheric convex lens, a diffractive plano/aspheric convex lens, a double convex spheric/spheric lens, a double convex spheric/aspheric lens, a double convex aspheric/aspheric lens, a double convex diffractive-spheric/aspheric lens, a double convex spheric/diffractive-aspheric lens, a double convex aspheric/diffractive-aspheric lens, a double convex diffractive-aspheric/diffractive-aspheric lens,

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a spheric/spheric meniscus lens, a spheric/aspheric meniscus lens, an aspheric/aspheric meniscus lens, a diffractive/diffractive meniscus lens, a diffractive-spheric/spheric meniscus lens, a diffractive-spheric/diffractive-spheric meniscus lens, a diffractive-spheric/aspheric meniscus lens, a spheric/diffractive-aspheric meniscus lens, an aspheric/diffractive-aspheric meniscus lens, and a diffractive-aspheric/diffractive-aspheric meniscus lens.

41. (Amended) A microscope support structure, comprising:
- (a) one and only one aperture optimized lens;
- (b) a slide positioning mechanism adapted to move and position the microscope slide in a plane perpendicular to the axis of the lens; and
- (c) a focusing system adapted to focus an image of an object;
- wherein the support structure defines a substantially enclosed space adapted to receive a slide for viewing.

43. (Amended) The microscope support structure of claim 42, wherein the at least partial separability between the top cover and base is provided by a connection means selected from the group consisting of the top cover and base being completely removable from one another, the top cover being adapted to slide off the base, and the top cover and base being hinged[, and any combination thereof].

44. (Amended) A microscope support structure comprising:

a substantially enclosed space adapted to receive a slide for viewing, the microscope support structure comprising:

one and only one lens;

a slide positioning mechanism;

a focusing system adapted to focus an image of an object;

a top cover supporting the lens; and

a base adapted to support a microscope slide,

wherein the top cover and the base are hinged and wherein the top cover is separated from the base by rotation about the hinge.

53. (Amended) A pocket-sized microscope comprising a housing supporting a single lens, the microscope having no other lens, the housing adapted to retain and enclose a microscope slide for viewing and safety, the housing adapted to substantially enclose a microscope slide, the microscope further comprising features that position the microscope slide a specific distance from the lens and that move and position the microscope slide in a plane perpendicular to the axis of the lens.

54. (Amended) A single lens microscope for viewing at least one object, comprising:

(a) a structure maintaining an aperture optimized lens; and

(b) a base, comprising:

(i) a slide positioning device adapted to move and position the microscope slide in a plane perpendicular to the axis of the lens,

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(ii) a focusing mechanism, and

(iii) a light receiving controller,

wherein the structure and the base are opposable and adapted to at least partially enclose
the at lease one object being viewed.
